

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AS-01 /086 W  
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R 181600Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6881

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY MADRID VIA POUCH

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16598

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: CHILL DESCENDS ON SOVIET-MOROCCAN RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY. ALTHOUGH HE FELT THE RECENT ACCORD ON THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE SPANISH SAHARA WAS A "VICTORY" FOR THE KING", MOROCCAN EMBOFF TOOK A PESSIMISTIC VIEW OF CURRENT MOSCOW-RABAT RELATIONS. IN HIS VIEW, A "CHILL" HAS SET IN, BUT PERHAPS A WARMING TREND WILL NOT BE TOO FAR OFF. HE OFFERED NO INFORMATION ON SPECIAL OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL EMISSARIES, AND CLAIMED THAT THE USSR AND THE GDR WERE THE ONLY "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES TO HAVE TAKEN A POSITION OPPOSED TO MOROCCO'S. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE COURSE OF A NOV 17 COURTESY CALLON MARCIL ABDEL ILLAH, SECOND SECRETARY, MOROCCAN EMBASSY, EMBOFF RAISED THE SUBJECT OF THE PRESENT STATE OF USSR-MOROCCO RELATIONS. ILLAH, WHOSE DEMEANOR DURING THE DISCUSSION CAN BEST BE DESCRIBED AS "SKITTISH", DID HIS UTMOST TO LIMIT HIMSELF TO OFFICIAL STATEMENTS, AND INSISTED ON SPEAKING FRENCH "WHILE  
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DISCUSSING POLICY".

3. ILLAH BRIEFLY SET FORTH THE PROVISIONS OF THE RECENT AGREEMENT REACHED "BY THE INTERESTED PARTIES", ON ACCORD WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS A "VICTORY FOR THE KING". WHEN IT WAS POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT THE NOV 16 ISSUE OF PRAVDA HAD CARRIED THE ALGERIAN REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT, ILLAH SLIPPED INTO A GLOOMIER MOOD, AND THE CONVERSATION TURNED TO A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE MILITARY ACTION BY ALGERIA. HE OBSERVED THAT "THIS WAS ALWAYS A POSSIBILITY" AND "ONE WHICH WE FEAR."

4. ILLAH'S ASSESSMENT OF THE ROLE OF THE USSR IN RECENT EVENTS WAS THAT THEY CLEARLY SUPPORTED ALGERIA AND OPPOSED MOROCCO. THIS WAS NOT REALLY SURPRISING, HE ADDED, IN THAT THE CHOICE WAS BETWEEN A TRADITIONAL MONARCHY AND A "PROGRESSIVE" IF NOT RADICAL" REGIME. ILLAH OBSERVED, HOWEVER, THAT MOSCOW WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO HAVE AVOIDED SUCH A CHOICE, BUT THIS HAD BEEN IMPOSSIBLE. AS A RESULT, A "CHILL" HAS DESCENDED ON MOROCCAN-SOVIET RELATIONS, ACCORDING TO ILLAH. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVED THAT SUCH A STATE NEED NOT EXIST FOR LONG, AND HE FELT THAT AFTER A CERTAIN PERIOD (HE MENTIONED SIX MONTHS), PERHAPS WE WILL SEE A WARMING IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP.

5. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER MOROCCAN EMISSARIES HAD COME OR WERE COMING TO MOSCOW IN AN ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN RABAT'S POSITION TO THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP, ILLAH MENTIONED ONLY AN EARLY NOVEMBER VISIT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WHICH HAD PROVED TO BE "WITHOUT RESULTS".

6. AS FOR THE OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, ILLAH CLAIMED THAT, ASIDE FROM THE GDR, THEY HAD ALL REMAINED SILENT ON THE SAHARA QUESTION. ACCORDING TO ILLAH, RABAT HAD BROKEN RELATIONS WITH THE GDR BECAUSE OF THE PUBLICATION IN AN UNIDENTIFIED EAST GERMAN NEWSPAPER OF AN ARTICLE WHICH HAD BEEN SHARPLY CRITICAL OF THE MOROCCAN POSITION (HE DID NOT MENTION THE KING IN THIS CONNECTION).  
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